

JOHN D. HAMLYN,

1, St. George's Street, London Docks, E. 1.

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Arrivals of Wild Animals in Great Britain.

Commencing January, 1920.

COMPILED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN.

It is rather early to give any list of Arrivals for 1920. Particulars of interesting arrivals will be generally found in "The Trade" article, also in the Price List which accompanies this issue.

DROMEDARIES.

Representative in North Africa collecting same.

SEALS.

Ten arriving shortly.

HIPPOPOTAMUS.

Twelve months old, in sound condition. On its arrival here, some time in May, it will be deposited at the Zoological Gardens, Regents Park.

AUSTRALIAN STOCK.

Rose Cockatoos, Penants, Rosellas, Kagus, Parrot Finches, Plumhead, Cherry and Double-banded Finches, great quantity of Australian Finches arriving.

PLEASE WRITE FOR ENTERTAINING PRICE LISTS.

540.3
1422

Smithsonian Institution
National Zoological Park
355

Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine.

EDITED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN

No. 12.—Vol. 5.

LONDON, APRIL, 1920.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Notice.

The subscription for Vol. V., 1919—20, is 10/- post free. Yearly subscriptions only received. Specimen copies can be sent post free on receipt of twelve penny stamps. Subscribers not receiving their Magazine should communicate at once with the Editor.

All letters to be addressed in future:—

JOHN D. HAMLYN,

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London.**

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Telegrams, Hamlyn, London Docks, London.

The Editor will be pleased to receive sporting articles and reminiscences, as well as items of news and reports of sport from all parts of the world. If stamped directed envelope be enclosed, the contributions will be returned if unsuitable.

—❁—
I beg to give notice that all subscriptions are now due for Vol. 6. Will my Subscribers forward their 10/- subscription without any delay?

The Trade.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

My troubles with the representative I sent to North Africa seem to have amused the majority of my readers. It is now only fair to state that Mr. Bell does not represent me in any way whatever.

I have, however, sent another representative to North Africa; he arrived there fourteen days ago and telegraphs from one of the principal towns:—"Have obtained mares stallions Dromedaries, also collecting Tortoises." He cannot

possibly arrive home under four weeks. That allows buyers to send in their orders in good time.

SEA LIONS.

A word of explanation is due here. Eight Sea Lions were contracted for in February, a substantial deposit was cabled the American catcher; also the Shipping Company. They were promised in March here. They arrived on the s.s. "Mesaba" last week, and the eight were despatched the same day of arrival to the respective purchasers. I could have sold twelve. I am willing to import more if sufficient inducement offers.

GOLDFISH.

Very great delay has been caused to the importation of Goldfish, and all Italian and French stock, in consequence of the strike on the French Railways; that being now over, I expect the 10,000 Goldfish shortly.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONSIGNMENTS

are still fairly regular. I am expecting a quantity of small African animals and a young Zebra shortly.

Amongst the animals expected are Leopard Cubs, Hyænas, Zebra, Baboons, and maybe Lions. Particulars on application.

AUSTRALIAN STOCK

to arrive at the end of May:—Rose Cockatoos, Zebra Finches (just fancy, Zebra Finches once again!), Kangaroo, Snakes and Squirrels. It will be quite 6 months before the Australian trade reverts to normal conditions. I hear that both Messrs. Josephs and Toggia have stocks ready for shipping directly the embargo is lifted.

INDIAN STOCK.

I have not attempted Indian trade. The rupee is still 2/-, 2/6. The traders both in Calcutta and Madras have extraordinary ideas as to the values of stocks. It is impossible to trade with them.

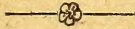
TRAVELLERS.

I have no information to give concerning the youngest two African travellers lately in this business. I refer to Reuben Castang and Charlie Judge who went to Old Calabar. I trust all is well with these two young men.

"HAMLYN'S MENAGERIE MAGAZINE" is now entering in its Sixth Year. It deserves support. It cannot, however, only live by subscriptions. If it pleases the Irish it should give satisfaction to you, gentle reader.

Pass this copy on to your friends, thereby assisting the circulation and adding to the happiness of

JOHN D. HAMLYN.



The Late Sir Edmund Loder.

By MR. W. P. PYCRAFT.

From "The Illustrated London News."

With the death of Sir Edmund Loder there passed from among us a great Englishman. He will be reckoned among those who "were honoured in their generations and were the glory of their times." Science, the world of sport, and the country-side have all been enriched by him, and all have sustained a loss that will not be easily measured. He was a brilliant scholar, yet without pedantry, while his interests in Natural Science were unusually wide, ranging as they did from astronomy to gardening. He was no mean artist, and in his small but choice collection of Chinese porcelain and glass he gave proofs of his fine discrimination in regard to things beautiful. Both mentally and physically he stood a giant among his fellows. As a young man he was a great athlete. He was also a fine shot with the rifle, achieving distinction as a member of the English Eight at Wimbledon and Bisley.

As a big-game hunter he held an enviable record. His first trip was made in 1871, when he went to India and Kashmere, returning with fine specimens of tiger, black-buck, ibex, nilghai, sambar, and barasingha. He next went to Western America, and was in time to secure to his own gun some splendid examples of the fast disappearing bison. But it was in Africa that the greater part of his hunting was done. Here he secured for his Museum a fine series of all the larger African mammals. Though he made but one short trip to the Sahara, he secured the first specimen of a small gazelle which, though known, had

never previously been obtained by a European. This is now known as "Loder's gazelle" (*Gazella loderi*). The Algerian mountains, Somaliland, and East Africa were each in turn laid under tribute, and the spoils—elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, antelope, lion, and a host of other creatures great and small, were brought back for his beloved Museum, which contains one of the finest private collections of horned animals in the world.

These were, perhaps, its chief glory. But, besides, it included some notable cetacean specimens; numberless treasures in the way of the smaller mammals and skeletons. Even more than his Museum, perhaps, he loved his garden, which was a veritable Paradise. I shall never forget the wonderful week-end I spent there in the autumn of 1918. Gardeners and tree-lovers from all parts of the country made pilgrimages to Leonardslee to see his wonderful collection of conifers and rhododendrons, which was unique; and the surpassingly beautiful rock-garden, which, by the way, formed the model on which that at Kew was fashioned.

Perhaps the crowning joy of his huge garden was his collection of rhododendrons, which, growing in natural groups in the woods, numbered thousands. By crossing *R. Griffithianum* with *R. Fortunei* he produced *R. Loderi*, a plant, his friend Commander Millais tells us, "of such size and magnificence that it is not too much to say that it is the finest hardy flowering shrub in northern climes. Many of the flowers are $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. across, and the whole truss 31 in. in circumference."

But Leonardslee was famous not only for its rock-garden and its trees, but also for the strange and wonderful animals kept there. At the bottom of a deep valley which ran through the estate was a small stream, and a part of this was reserved for a colony of beavers. Sir Edmund and I made our way down to the beaver-pool late one afternoon to sit and watch its inhabitants; and it was a fascinating watch we kept, straining our eyes till we could no longer see clearly what was going on. *Coypus*, the large rodent which furnishes the fur known as "Nutria," and the huge *Capybara* also lived here, while in a paddock one could study kangaroos in practically a wild state. But, to my thinking, the most wonderful of all the animals were the Pacas—small, long-legged rodents which, when running, looked as though they were mechanical toys moving by clockwork!

He kept nothing merely for show purposes, but all for study. And a right good use he made of his collections. He displayed a really wonderful knowledge both of his plants and animals. Yet he wrote but little. Many valuable papers he contributed to the Proceedings of the Zoologi-

cal Society of London, and he also published a magnificent monograph on the rhododendrons, beautifully illustrated by his friend Millais, and a list of the collection of coniferae, giving the ages and dimensions of the most notable. Finally, he was one of the most lovable and kindly of men, and I, in common with many, have lost in him a friend whom I can never replace.



The West of England Zoological Society.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

INCREASED RECEIPTS AND MORE ATTRACTIONS.

SHAREHOLDERS' ANNUAL MEETING.

At the annual meeting of shareholders of the Bristol, Clifton and West of England Zoological Society, Dr. A. J. Harrison presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the varying moods of the weather, and to the visible effects of the rain upon vegetation. Referring to the accounts he said that at the first glance it looked as if the gate takings were considerably lower than in the previous year, £4,995 against £3,140. The explanation was to be found in the item of £6,505 and to make the comparison true the two items should be added, totalling £9,645 or £4,650 more. It was pleasing to state that subscriptions, £797, had increased by £177 and to cap that total they had to go back to 1901 when it was £802. At the same time they needed more subscriptions. The total for refreshments, £4,247, was excellent. It was the largest amount on record and great credit must be given to Mr. and Mrs. Gigg for their good management, especially considering the food difficulties. Lawn tennis seemed to be coming round again and they were doing their best to give increased facilities for the game by improving lawns and maintaining three grass courts. Receipts indicated that the boat trips had hit popular views. Wages and the cost of keep for the animals had increased, but new funds had enabled them to purchase additional animals. In the autumn, the under secretary, Mr. J. S. Carter, resigned after many years' faithful service, and the Committee hoped he would enjoy good health in his retirement. The carnival last summer was very successful and they thanked all the friends who assisted, especially Mr. Allan Mc Arthur, the chairman of the committee. After regretting the death of Mr. Jere Osborne, Dr.

Harrison referred to the fact that in consequence of the increased cost of maintaining the gardens, the charge for admission was increased as from March 1st, and expressed a confident hope that they would continue to receive the support of the public. In conclusion, he thanked the donors of exhibits, also the Superintendent (Mr. Woodward) and staff.

Col. Cary Batten, in seconding, said the increased receipts for refreshments were very gratifying in times like these.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr. C. S. Wills, said the attendances at the Easter fetes were very satisfactory, having regard to the bad weather and the counter attractions.

The report was adopted.

AN EXCELLENT TREASURER.

Mr. Chas. S. Wills proposed the re-election of Dr. Harrison to the position of Treasurer, with thanks for his services during the past year, and spoke of the valuable work he did for the Society.

Dr. Shingleton Smith, in seconding, congratulated the chairman on the improved state of his health, and added that he had not only a great knowledge of natural history, but also of finance.

The resolution having been carried, Dr. Harrison returned thanks, but said he should like a younger man to take his place (cries of "No.").



Light Literature.

From the "Irish Times."

My fellow clubmen, who browse upon
Your "Athenaeum" or "Badminton,"
Who find that what Mr. Maxse thinks
Helps your post-prandial forty winks,
That tea comes quicker, or seems to do,
If one skims a page of the "New Review,"
That Sunday morning seems less eternal
When interspersed with the "Hibbert Journal,"
And you who sit in the fireside seats
Clasping the more ephemeral sheets—
All, in a word, who idle away
The whole or a part of each ill-spent day,
Gathered together in big arm-chairs,
Utterly bored with the world's affairs,
Who sit and think, or perhaps just sit
And stare at a page that some scribe has writ
In a quarterly well worth half-a-crown
To a man who is holding it upside down,
O, hark, my friends, to the thing I say,

Who have acted likewise for many a day.
 Prone on my desk as I pen this screed
 Is a magazine you can really read;
 Quarterly? Monthly? It doesn't tell,
 And, perhaps, on the whole it is just as well,
 For though eight pages are all it's got,
 It costs a shilling, which seems a lot.
 But every page is a mine of news
 About beasts of the forest and beasts in "zoos,"
 Beasts that the African jungles hold,
 Worth, when you've caught them, their weight
 in gold,
 Beasts than wander through Arctic snows,
 Where the walrus roots and the narwhal blows,
 Or swing through the forest from tree to tree,
 Simulacra of you and me,
 Each one hoping, I venture to say,
 That a kind collector would come his way
 And send him to Dublin to try his tricks on
 Sir Fr-d-r-ck M--re and Professor D-x-n.
 O, mirth and wisdom are there to glean
 In "Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine,"
 For whether you're fondest of yaks and gnus,
 Sacred bullocks or cockatoos,
 Or the priceless mandrill who, so they say,
 Looks like the end of a perfect day,
 Or whether it's only a cat you keep,
 You just can't read it and go to sleep.



The Importation of Plumage Bill.

EGRET "FARMING" IN INDIA.

Colonel YATE (C.U., Melton) moved the second reading of the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Bill. During the first three years of the war, he said, 1,865,431 lb. of feathers, including ostrich feathers, were imported into this country. In 1917, 1918, and 1919, during which feathers were imported under special license only, no less than 643,184 lb. came in. These were valued at £677,351, and no barnyard fowls' feathers could be said to be worth £1 a pound weight. There were 258 species of birds the export of whose feathers had been prohibited from the British Colonies and Dependencies. The only opposition he had seen to the bill came from the Plumage Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce. An examination of the names of the feather merchants and feather manufacturers in the London Directory seemed to suggest that the trade was not entirely in the hands of the English. In the debates in 1914 it was stated that only between 600 and 700 British workpeople were said to be employed in the trade.

Lieut.-Colonel ARCHER-SHEE (C.U. Finsbury) said that the number of his constituents engaged in the industry was over 1,100.

Colonel YATE pointed out that in the opposition by the Chamber of Commerce it was stated that egrets were farmed in captivity in India, where they bred four times a year, and that the moulted feathers only were exported. If that was so, the feathers could still be imported after the bill was passed. But the bill dealt with hundreds of species which could not possibly be farmed. It was impossible that the feathers of farmed egrets were of more value than those of wild birds, and that the moulted feathers were sent here. No bird in the world moulted four times a year. No evidence had been produced in support of the statement about the farming of egrets. The birds which had been seen in captivity were, he believed, decoys kept while the farms were likely to be visited by European officials, and, in his opinion, the story of their breeding in captivity was absolutely fictitious. He had been informed on good authority that the drapery interests would welcome the passing of the bill, as a development of the artificial flower trade would increase employment and British interests.

Lieut.-Colonel A. MURRAY (C.L., Kincardine), who seconded, said that the objects of the bill were to put an end to a traffic in feathers and skins of beautiful birds which was responsible in many cases for deplorable suffering, and was unsound in its economic results. He wished the bill had not been necessary, for he would have preferred that the women of this country had risen in a body and affirmed their determination not to wear the feathers and skins of beautiful birds, which were being ruthlessly destroyed for the decoration of their hats and for the pandering of their vanity. (Laughter.) During the war there had been a hardening of opinion in the direction of a self-denying ordinance in respect of self-decoration, but, so far as his observation went, feminine vanity had got a new lease of life. He had that morning been at the private view of the Royal Academy, and while he was examining a picture there had come before his eyes sufficient evidence to prove conclusively the necessity for the introduction of this bill. (Laughter.) The evidences of cruelty were, in his opinion, indisputable.

Mr. DENNISS (C.U., Oldham) said he had seen a letter from the Ostrich and Fancy Feather Trade Association in which it stated that it was the earnest wish of the trade that where cruelty or danger of extermination existed something should be done to put a stop to it. If this bill would do that he would vote for it. Neither cruelty nor danger of extermination was helpful to commerce, because the moment a bird became rare

it ceased to be of interest to the trade. A rare bird was too costly to put in a bonnet. (Cries of "Oh!") The people who were likely to cause the extermination of rare birds were the collectors and the amateurs who shot at sight. The trade claimed that it was unjust to prohibit the importation of plumage which on indisputable evidence was botained without cruelty or danger of extermination. There was a very large and unobjectionable trade in plumage.

The trade had authorised him to say that they were perfectly willing that the House of Commons should make a list of the birds the import of plumage of which should be prohibited, provided that the trade should have an opportunity of objecting before the Board of Trade to any of the birds on that list. The ostrich feather trade would be much injured, as these feathers were used with other feathers. In the first three months after the second reading of a similar bill in 1914, the importation of ostrich feathers fell off by 25 per cent. The bill offered no compensation to those engaged in the trade, whose occupation and businesses would be destroyed. In the trade there were thirty-two English firms—ten of which bore Jewish names—six firms of foreigners who were naturalised before the war, and two French firms. A petition against the bill got up in London was in forty-eight hours signed by over 2,000 workers in the trade. They begged the House of Commons not to take away their livelihood and drive them into unemployment at one month's notice. All that would happen if the bill passed was that the trade would be diverted from London to the Continent. Birds would be gathered just the same, and the cruelties perpetrated would continue. The only way by which they should take action was international agreement.

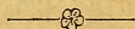
Lieut.-Colonel ARCHER SHEE (C.U., Finsbury), who moved the rejection of the bill, held up a document some 8 ft. in length filled with the signatures of people, 95 per cent. of whom were British, who were against the measure. It was absurd to speak of the extermination of millions of humming birds by the importation of 24,000 a year. There was no more cruelty in killing them than in killing pheasants or snipe. Did hon. members remember that they came to that House clothed in skins of animals—the skins of sheep on their backs, those of oxen on their feet, and those of rabbits on their heads? (Laughter.) He seemed to remember Colonel Yate in a fur coat. (Laughter.) How about the cruelty in collecting the mink and the sable? If we were to stop cruelty, how about the lobster? (Laughter.) Every time hon. members ate oysters exquisite pain was given. The fact was that the House was going in for far too much sentiment. He did not believe in following the example of America in the pro-

hibition of plumage any more than her example in the prohibition of public-houses.

Mr. MONTAGU said the Government were extremely anxious that the bill should be passed. What they wished to see exterminated was not the feather trade, but that which existed only by the destruction of beautiful birds. He did not believe that the passage of this bill would destroy any legitimate trade. If it destroyed a trade, which would result gradually and at an increasing speed in a birdless world, the Government would be only too glad.

Mr. GILBERT (C.L., Southwark, Central) opposed the bill, which, he said, would very greatly affect the industry in London.

At five o'clock the debate came automatically to an end, and the House rose five minutes later.



The World's Zoological Trading Company.

"Truth," May 5th, 1920.

THE ZOOLOGICAL WILD-CAT.

By a recent order of the Court the World's Zoological Trading Co., Limited, was consigned to the establishment in Carey Street, where post mortem examinations of join stock wild cats are conducted. This curious enterprise was the subject of warnings in "Truth" last summer, but unfortunately it received a good deal of indiscriminating publicity in newspapers which found interesting "copy" in the sporting side of the scheme and cared nothing about its financial dangers. Yet it was designed to appeal to a class particularly in need of protection—ex-officers in quest of employment and possessing a little capital. Instead of an ordinary humdrum business career the ex-officer was offered an engagement as a big game hunter and trapper at a handsome salary in return for an investment of £500 in shares. He was assured that the investment would be in itself highly profitable, and to any young fellow hankering after a life of sport and adventure, such as is usually the privilege only of rich men, this seemed an ideal opportunity. The promoter was a Mr. J. A. Jordan, said to have been well known as a hunter in the Belgian and French Congo hinterland. What qualities Mr. Jordan displayed as a big game hunter I do not know, but as a wild-cat promoter he was amazingly reckless. I was more or less ignorant of the conditions of "zoological trading," but viewed simply in the light of common sense the company's scheme for capturing, taming, and sell-

ing elephants, lions, tigers, leopards, giraffes—in fact, every species of “the wild fauna of the earth”—struck me as commercially preposterous, and the references to the ownership of “reserves” somewhere in Africa were suspiciously vague and unconvincing. Unhappily the optimistic Jordan contrived to persuade some impressionable minds of the potentialities of the enterprise, and I am afraid that not a few of those who became shareholders for the purpose of getting employment were inspired with confidence through the use of the names of the Earl of Lonsdale and the Marquis of Tavistock as “honorary directors,” as well as by the names of the actual directors. Having put their money into the company a number of ex-officers were despatched on expeditions to different parts of Africa, where they were eventually stranded owing to the non-arrival of promised remittances. The compulsory winding-up order will ensure the investigation of the whole affair—though Mr. Jordan has gone back to Africa—and incidentally it may also throw some light on the Engungu Development Co., another and closely related venture of the same origin in which ex-officers were induced to invest.

It appears that this World Zoological fiasco has had a disastrous effect on the trade in wild animals. According to Mr. John D. Hamlyn, who in “Hamlyn’s Menagerie Magazine” riddled the scheme with very vigorous and outspoken expert criticism, the distribution throughout the world of the company’s ludicrously extravagant statements has resulted in the putting up of prices. “Even in Liberia, where animals were reasonably cheap, they have the avaricity to ask in the bush £500 for a hippo, and £200 each for antelopes.” So profiteering spreads.

“Morning Post,” 16th April.

News has been cabled from British East Africa that a British sporting expedition which left the Congo River at the end of last November for Nairobi has reached Fort Portal, Uganda, “all well,” having thus completed the most difficult and perilous part of a notable journey across Equatorial Africa. The members of the expedition are four young officers, or ex-officers, who served in the war, namely, Mr. Sydney Fairbairn, Grenadier Guards; Captain E. K. Catchpole, who is well known as a big-game hunter in British East Africa; Major Bishop and Mr. Gilbert Bussey, both formerly of Rhodesia.

Their main object was big-game hunting. Their route from Bumba, on the Congo, was to be up the Rubi River to Buta, whence they were to proceed on foot through Api, Bambile and Nyangara, to Kilo, passing through some of the best game country in the Congo State. The ex-

pedition was arranged by the World’s Zoological Trading Company, against which a winding-up order has since been made. When the members of the expedition reached Stanleyville they would have been unable to proceed for lack of supplies had not Mr. Fairbairn assumed responsibility and provided what was needful. From Stanleyville owing to the dearth of porters there, they had to return 200 miles down the Congo to the mouth of the Rubi before entering the wilds. They are expected at Nairobi almost immediately.

Mr. John Sully, of 13, High Holborn, on Thursday, 29th April, offered for sale 9 pairs Horns, a large mounted Head with 2 rifles, and some 800 rounds of ammunition, on account of the Official Receiver.

There also arrived on the “City of Durban” 1 Indian Axis Deer which was sold to me on arrival in the Tilbury Docks.

But what about the animals that were at Hazelmere Park at the time of bankruptcy? I sincerely trust that after this fiasco amateurs will not attempt to interfere with the Wild Beast Business.

In whatever part of the world that the amateur has interfered the prices have gone up by leaps and bounds. The dealer at home is then charged with profiteering.

I now learn that the irrepressible Robert Leadbetter has formed a new syndicate to trade in—according to his memorandum which now lies before me—every description of Birds, Beasts, Reptiles, Hounds, Stags, Otters, Cats, Pheasants, Partridges, Goats, Dogs and Poultry, the only animals not mentioned are the prehistoric monsters still at liberty in the Congo wilds. Besides above, this new-fangled Company has departments for Amusements, Arena Exhibitions, Stage Productions and Pageants! Is that all Mr. Leadbetter?

And then a consignment of animals is expected. So they were for the World’s Zoological Trading Company. Good luck to the A.S.M. Company.

The history and downfall of the World’s Zoological Trading Co., Ltd., was told at the Bankruptcy Court during the week at a meeting of creditors. Among those present were Mr. A. J. Osborne, Robert Leadbetter, Major R. J. Carjill, and Mr. R. D. Graham (Secretary of the Company).

Mr. H. E. Burgess, the Official Receiver, in his explanatory statement, pointed out that the Company was incorporated in September, 1918, with a capital of £50,000 which subsequently was

increased to £60,000 for the purpose of carrying out business of trapping and hunting wild animals which were subsequently to be disposed of. The capital which had been issued amounted to £44,000, and of this there was a sum of £26,000 in shares issued to Mr. John Alfred Jordan, the promoter of the Company, and £4,000 in shares to Mr. Robert Leadbetter. These two issues, fully paid up, amounted to £30,000, leaving £14,000 which had been subscribed for cash. There were many who had been concerned on the Board of Directors. There were two in existence at the time the winding-up order was made, namely, Mr. Leadbetter and Mr. Osborne.

They, the Official Receiver noticed, were to be qualified as Directors by the issue of 1,000 shares each for which, in the ordinary course, the public would expect them to subscribe. However the issues were in the form of a gift and it would be for the Directors to consider whether these gentlemen were liable now to pay for this gift. The idea of the Company was to make use for the purpose of trapping and hunting wild animals, of the concession of the Belgian Government, which Mr. Jordan had of an area of 53,000 acres in the Belgian Congo. Whether it was better to deal with the "niggers" in procuring the animals or to obtain the animals independently of the "niggers" was a matter for discussion between Mr. Leadbetter and Mr. Jordan.

The Company were not very successful. They advertised for people to take on hunting expeditions and articles were written and published which gave the Company a very nice appearance.

The results were not very satisfactory though they got some £14,000 in round figures subscribed which was obtained largely through the Directors and their friends. Men were engaged at considerable salaries to carry out the scheme but no animals were caught. Some sixty animals were "niggers." The various expeditions had involved a large expenditure and salaries had run into a big figure.

In the circumstances Mr. Burgess thought they might have waited till such time as they were doing big business before paying big salaries. Mr. Jordan was paid at the rate of £1,000 a year and the arrangement was for Mr. Leadbetter to keep the animals till a market was found for them. In consideration of this he was to have £4,000 in shares for the use of his park and for the use of his services subsequently he was to be given £1,000 a year. Apart from this, salaries were to be paid to others who undertook the task of catching the animals. They had spent money on insurance on animals sent over here and the figure involved sounded to him (Mr. Burgess) big.

Funds ran out and so they had to come to the end and Mr. Jordan had gone abroad. He (Mr. Burgess) did not know if he was coming back but the trouble with him was that towards the end of last year the Belgian Government sent him a polite note saying that they had never given consent to the concession being signed. Mr. Jordan was given a cheque for £26,000 by the Company, but this he passed back by way of subscription for a similar amount of shares.

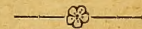
It was possible that there would be a claim against Mr. Jordan for selling a concession which he had no right to sell. In that event they might make a claim against him for the £26,000 which the Company had paid over.

The liabilities of the Company altogether amounted to £3,472, £960 of which was preferential. As to assets they had cash in hand £44, some fittings, a few guns and some animals which had been sold for £90, book debts £119, and unpaid calls amounting to £3,600 out of which it was not expected to realise more than a £1,000. With the balance on securities in the hands of the bank the total assets amounted to about £1,357.

In regard to the animals he (Mr. Burgess) took the responsibility of getting rid of them. Mr. Leadbetter had a claim for their keep of £16, and on taking advice he (Mr. Burgess) was told that in the circumstances he could not do better than to sell them to Mr. Leadbetter for £20. The guns realised by auction about £10.

No resolution being passed the case was left with the office of the Official Receiver.

At a subsequent meeting of contributors a similar decision was come to.



General Notes.

THAT many of my readers have written for particulars of the photograph of the Giant Gorilla which was killed in the Forest of Bambio, French Cameroons. This wonderful photograph appeared in "The Sphere," March 13th, 1920.

THAT yet another Amateur has decided for the Wild Beast Trade. Captain Cherry Kearton has stated in an interview with the Press that he intends to bring over a collection of East African animals.

Once more, any fool with the money can buy the animals, but it takes experienced men to bring them over.

He has no experience in bringing animals over, and his journey will be a financial failure.

THAT two lions recently entered the cattle kraal on Mr. J. A. Page's farm, Umvukwes, in search of food, naturally selecting the most delectable stock offering. They were attacked by two infuriated bulls, and, after a severe struggle, were eventually forced to beat a retreat. Only two small calves were killed.

THAT a blackbird with a white head has made its home by the village green at Walberton, Sussex.

THAT the Zoological Society, Regents Park, have received many additions during the last month:—1 Cheetah, 1 Milky Eagle Owl, 1 Chimpanzee, 2 Gibbons, 2 Ostriches, 6 Red-eared Pheasants, 2 Snow-white Emus.

THAT from Paris I receive the following:—

The manager of the Trone Menagerie recently purchased for £150 a monster boa constrictor in Ratcliff Highway. The head of the Committee of the Paris Zoo, where the collection of animals is now very poor, wanted to buy the boa constrictor, but the owner would not part with it. The Zoo possesses two fine camels, each worth £80. They had been eating their heads off because fodder was so expensive, and even though the "ships of the desert" or disciples of Pussyfoot, their keep is expensive. On the other hand, a boa constrictor only eats ten rabbits a year, so a couple of days ago the Zoo swapped the two camels for the boa constrictor.

The manager of the menagerie, however, found that one camel was a "white elephant," so he sold it to a butcher. This animal's name was Aristide. He was a male of twelve years, and met his fate in the Paris slaughter houses yesterday morning. His carcase was purchased at the Central Markets for £48, and this morning camel steaks are on sale.

[The boa constrictor was my last large Indian Python.—Ed.]

THAT the following arrives by this mail:—

The devious story of the Addo elephant has undergone another development. Recently it was announced that Sir Fredric de Waal had decided to create a reserve for fifty-five of the elephants, but that proposal now appears to be impracticable. Telegraphing to the Cape Provincial Administration on the subject, Major Pretorius stated that every one of his boys has refused to stay one day longer in the Addo Bush. He continues:—

"I agree to take on the contract under the following conditions: Your reserve cannot hold one elephant more than sixteen. I will reduce the herd to sixteen elephants; these, I am quite sure, can safely be kept on the reserve. I will give my services free for one month with my whole staff, during which time I will keep sixteen elephants on the reserve, and at the same time train two native keepers to look after the elephants. These two boys it will be necessary to keep on, not only to look after the elephants, but to look after the reserve in general. To keep the reserve without a keeper is useless. People will be making use of the reserve as a shooting-ground for everybody.

"If every farmer be permitted to shoot an elephant immediately it crosses the boundary, I can give you a written guarantee that in four years' time there will not be one elephant left. Should sixteen elephants be left in the reserve and in the care of two native keepers, in the interests of science I will advise you how a reserve can be made here. The moment the elephants disappear from the Addo Bush the buffaloes and all other game in the Bush will be exterminated within a few years."

THAT a large consignment of animals, the most valuable and interesting received since the outbreak of the war, has just arrived at the Scottish Zoological Park from Calcutta. They comprise a tiger, a pair of Indian antelope, a wild pig, a pair of sarus cranes, some bar-headed geese, purple coot, jungle-fowl, and a python. Nearly all of these are new to the collection in the Park, and the tiger, a fine young male, is a great acquisition. For these, with the exception of the Indian antelope, the Park is indebted to the Council of the Calcutta Zoological Society, and to Rai B. Basu, C.M.Z.S., superintendent of the Calcutta Zoological Garden, who have always shown the utmost sympathy with the Scottish Zoological Park, and have given it practical expression several times, this being the third collection they have sent. The pair of Indian antelope are the gift of Captain R. Henderson (of the s.s. "Nevasa," on which the animals were brought home), whose home is in Edinburgh, and to whose care and that of his officers the successful transport of the animals is due. Messrs. Gray, Dawes and Co., and Lord Inchcape, their chairman, gave the collection a free passage on the "Nevasa." The animals, in spite of their long journey, are apparently in good health, and are daily improving in appearance. An interesting pair of bush-fowl from West Africa have also been received this week, the gift of Captain W. Robertson, of Leith, who brought them hom.

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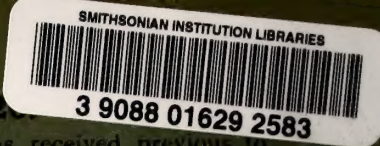
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